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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/023,083	12/17/2001	Jun-Ichi Yamato	15155	3670

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EXAMINER

BATES, KEVIN T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2155

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/023,083

Applicant(s)

YAMATO ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin Bates

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3-5-05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to a communication made on December 17, 2001.

The Information Disclosure Statement was received on March 5, 2004.

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. There seems to be two separate devices labeled as "said terminal device" it is difficult to tell whether that label applies to separate devices or the same device. For the purpose of further examination it is assumed that there is two separate devices being referred to.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ludwig (5915091).

Regarding claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, and 26, Ludwig discloses an information reproducing method for displaying the same information on plurality of screens in synchronization with one another (Column 26, lines 20 – 31), said method comprising the steps connecting displaying a plurality of terminal devices each said information screen for making communications through a network (Column 26, lines 40 – 56); delivering schedule data for reproducing said information on said screens at an arbitrary time from a terminal device which created said schedule data to other terminal devices through said network (Column 26, lines 57 – 65); and instructing terminal device which receives said schedule data to reproduce said information from among previously recorded information in accordance with said schedule data (Column 26, lines 57 – 65).

Regarding claims 2, 7, 12, 18, 22, and 27, Ludwig discloses that a terminal device to receive said information delivered from another terminal device which created said schedule data through said network, when information reproduced in accordance with said schedule data has been recorded terminal device which receives said schedule data (Column 26, lines 50 – 65).

Regarding claims 3, 8, 13, 19, 23, and 28, Ludwig discloses that schedule data includes unattended-recording data recording predetermined information delivered at predetermined date and time (Column 29, lines 7 – 9).

Regarding claims 4, 9, 14, 17, 24, and 29, Ludwig discloses that said schedule data includes scenario data which special reproduction information together executed during reproduction of the lapse of time from the start reproduction (Column 29, lines 7 – 9).

Regarding claims 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30, Ludwig discloses the steps of: delivering manipulation data to other terminal devices through said network, from a terminal device which executes special reproduction during reproduction said information, said manipulation data including at which the special reproduction is executed, the type of the special reproduction (Column 26, lines 50 – 65), and a time elapsed from the start of reproduction of said information; and instructing a terminal device which receives said manipulation data to calculate a position at which the special reproduction is started on said information based on said manipulation data, move a scene to said start position, and perform the same type of special reproduction as that performed by said terminal device which transmits said manipulation data from said start position to which the scene is moved (Column 29, lines 7 – 9).

Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U. S. Patent No. 5689641 issued to Ludwig, because it discloses sharing information in a broadcasting system.

U. S. Patent No. 6598075 issued to Ogdon, because it discloses synchronizing displays on multiple computer screens.

U. S. Patent No. 6166735 issued to Dom, because it discloses synchronizing recorded information and manipulation data.

U. S. Patent No. 6151619 issued to Riddle, because it discloses synchronizing asynchronous information in a collaborative system with manipulation data.

U. S. Patent No. 6108687 issued to Craig, because it discloses sending schedule and synchronization information between clients and a server.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Bates whose telephone number is (571) 272-3980. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KB

KB
February 4, 2005


HOSAIN ALAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER